

**International Conference - 2025: Developed India @ 2047****Charting Multidisciplinary and Multi-Institutional Pathways for Inclusive Growth and Global Leadership held on 4th & 5th April, 2025****Organised by: IQAC - Gossner College, Ranchi****Fighting Human Trafficking in Jharkhand through Pro- Policing: The Influence of Civil Society Initiatives****Ashima Neera Lakra**

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Abstract

Human trafficking is a major human rights violation, with Jharkhand emerging as India's most severely affected state. This research paper clearly shows the collaborative work of civil society and the law enforcement agencies exemplary work in combatting the heinous crime. The civil society origination is generally defined as a group that clearly demarcates its purpose, function, organization and means in pursuit of its agenda. The civil society is called by different nomenclatures voluntary organization, no profit organization and they are considered as a social capital of a country. The civil society has gained a lot of prominence in the recent 3 decades and the area of their work is mainly socio –economic development of the marginalized community which are in various aspects considered as a third class citizens of our democratic country. The civil society organisation work in close coordination with the community and work very closely with the deprived section of the society identify their issues and problems and work towards being their voice and creating pressure on the government which leads to policy making catering their concerns and issues.

The Jharkhand anti trafficking network is one such outstanding initiative to provide safe movement and preventing human trafficking in the state of Jharkhand. The JATN is actively working in 13 districts of Jharkhand.

Its major objective is to educate and safeguard the vulnerable section of the society and the marginalized community.

The objective of the research is to identify the challenges faced by the CSO in concluding their work and also examining the role of civil society in enhancing pro-policing strategies to combat human trafficking in Jharkhand and mitigation of such a heinous crime.

Keywords: *Marginalized, Human Trafficking, Pro-Policing, Development*

INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in persons is very recent term. In fact, it was not known until the late 1990s that states began the task of separating out trafficking from other practices with which it was commonly associated such as facilitated irregular migration. The first ever definition of trafficking was incorporated into the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Trafficking Protocol).



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The state of Jharkhand is blessed in abundance from mineral resources to a home of rich culture where 32 tribes reside and also is a land with vivid diversity. The state was formed on 15th November 2000. The state was separated and formed mainly for the upliftment of the tribes and their protection. The agenda seems unfulfilled as the major issues that are faced in Jharkhand are still burning from displacement issues, to providing basic necessities, education, healthcare etc. The land of Jharkhand is also called as the land of Birsa Munda who raised his voice against exploitation and injustice, and still in this new era of progress and growth still a vast majority of the population residing in Jharkhand are living a distressed life where the basic human rights are violated every now and then and due to the lack of awareness the state is not as well off as compared to the other states of the country. Jharkhand as developed we can simply say that the majority of the population has a humble lifestyle. Jharkhand has limited job opportunities due to which the remote areas as well as the capital of Jharkhand are under the influence of such an organized crime.

The condition of the people is miserable. The programmes and policies of the government have been trying hard to uplift the condition of the citizens by first identifying the targeted audience for the schemes and welfare programs of the government but the implementation and execution has issues of their own due to which in spite of such programmes the issues are still prevalent.

The issues are numerous in nature from economic backwardness to basic facilities of livelihood it is not possible for the government to cater to all the issues thus the civil society steps in. It's important to understand what are civil society organizations.

Civil society organizations have different nomenclature such as voluntary sectors, non-profit organizations, voluntary organizations, non-government organizations etc.

According to UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are non-state actors whose aims are neither to generate profits nor to seek governing power. CSOs unite people to advance shared goals and interests. They have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others and are based on ethical, cultural, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations. The civil society organizations are widely as well as respectfully recognized as a third sector of development after the state and the market due to its growing dynamic nature. The civil societies work towards good governance and promote the same through.

- Effectiveness
- Openness
- Responsiveness
- Accountability

There are some experts who are viewing the civil society organizations in a completely different way that is they are considering them as critical contributors to economic growth. They are also playing an increasingly impactful and crucial role in providing civic and social infrastructure essential for a minimum quality of life of the common masses. According to one of the discussion papers of WHO



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“Strategic alliances: The role of Civil Society in health”, the CSOs play a vital as participants, legitimizes and watchdogs of policy as well as collaborators in national development. The government data reveals that close to 90% of the NGO’s that are working in India mainly focusing in the social sector and the areas of involvement are rural development; human resource development; social justice and empowerment; health and family welfare and youth affairs and sports.

The civil society organizations play an important role in combating various social menaces prevalent in the society. Human trafficking ins one such organized crime which is not only an issue and major concern for India but other south east Asian countries as well such as Nepal and Bangladesh including India. Young girls and women are mainly trafficked for various organized crimes such as bonded Labour, sex workers etc. With more and more advancement and development, where the countries and the world is galloping and reaching the space, advancing in latest technology and governance still the world is battling the organized crime of human trafficking.

The new era of development has brought about the idea of being responsible and accountable government as in today’s era the government talks about the welfare state, which started after the Second World War in which it was the core responsibility of the government to provide basic facilities and needs to their citizens. The safety and welfare of the citizens are of pivotal importance for every country irrespective of its kind being developed, developing and the third world countries.so the civil society organizations are non-profit and are independent from the government as well as the market it mainly operates around common interest, purposes, and values.

The self governing and voluntary nature of the CSO’s help in proper working in social sector and in upliftment of the weaker and vulnerable section of the society in todays complexity in providing them the benefits and uplifting their condition but in todays era the CSO’s alone cannot do the welfare activities alone they too need a lot of support from the government entities including the various enforcement agencies.

The time is now to move towards a cooperative mode that is collective efforts of civil society organizations and other organs of the government to work towards a common objective that is combatting human trafficking.

States Response to Counter Human Trafficking

a. Legislations

1. A positive step has been taken by the government of India to combat trafficking of humans has ratified the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime (UNTOC) and its three subparts, the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons mainly women and children. This entire thing came into effect in India from 4th June 2011.



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2. An inter ministerial group has been constituted by the government towards the amendment of the special legislation in India titled the immoral traffic prevention act.
3. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, was amended in the 2016 with the enactment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, according to this act it prohibits the employment of children under 14 in all occupations and adolescents (14-18 years) in hazardous occupation.
4. In order to regulate the recruitment agencies the government has strengthened the application of Enforcement of Immigration Act, 1983.

New Ray of Hope

In the year 2018 the Narendra Modi government approved the trafficking of persons (prevention, protection and rehabilitation) Bill 2018. ON 14TH DEC 2022 The question related to the bill was put forward in Rajya Sabha under the unstarred question in which its status was asked ... the answer was that the redrafting of the bill is taking place due to the changing requirement as per the current scenario post that no such update has been asked in the legislature.

A lot of hope is there from this bill as it talks about prevention protection and rehabilitation of the victims. The government has come forward for the formation of anti human trafficking units in each state in order to combat the rising cases of human trafficking in the country.

Situation In Jharkhand

Jharkhand is prone to human trafficking incidents and most of the districts out of 24 districts in total has been affected by the human trafficking cases. The state of Jharkhand is a populated state where livelihood is a concern the jobs are not enough and that's the reason the major section of the society migrate to other states and places in search of jobs.

Unsafe migration is a major concern in Jharkhand. There has been a relation between migration and trafficking of humans. when cases came out a major chunk of human who were trafficked were migrants from small towns and villages.

The local as well as national newspapers always give us information related to human trafficking being a most organized form of crime in Jharkhand specially in areas such as Giridih, Godda, Gumla, Dumka, Chatra, Deoghar, Koderma, Khunti, Hazaribagh, West Singhbhum, Simdega, Lohardagga and what is common among these districts of Jharkhand that these districts are not well developed and the scope for jobs are limited and there is no better means to survive and thus people from here mainly women and young girls go to metro cities in search of job as domestic help but many few remain safe and majority of them become victims of trafficking. The state has become very active in order to contain such a crime as it is increasing at an alarming rate mainly women and young girls have been the target. The group of 14 NGO'S have come together and formed The Jharkhand Anti Trafficking Network" (JATN) "to promote safe migration to help prevent human trafficking" and



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raise the issue of trafficking as violence against women and girls in the public domain. Presently, JATN is mainly working in 13 trafficking prone districts of Jharkhand namely – Giridih, Godda, Gumla, Dumka, Chatra, Deoghar, Koderma, Khunti, Hazaribagh, West Singhbhum, Simdega, Lohardagga and Ranchi covering 19 blocks, 79 Panchayats and 257 villages.

JATN major objective is towards empowering women and leadership to counter trafficking and ensure safe and secure mobility in Jharkhand. JATN strives to build the capacity of community and grassroots organizations to empower marginalized and vulnerable sections of society in exercising their rights and realizing their entitlements. It provides capacity-building support, promotes information dissemination, and models development and technical support to individuals, NGOs, and civil society. JATN members also focus on strategic planning for interventions promoting safe and secure movement.

The anti human trafficking units (AHTU's) have been set up in 13 districts of Jharkhand state that mainly is a collaboration of NGO the police official and local activist in order to work only towards prevention, protection and rescue. The areas such as Gumla, Simdega, Santhal Paragana districts are more prone also it should be kept in mind that the human trafficking is not boundary specific this form of organized crime has no boundary.

Conceptualising CSO

India was never new to something called as voluntary services the kind of social work services or organized India believes in the system of dharma, which is well rooted within which daan is another sub concept which promotes and encourage to help others in need. A major section of the population strongly believes in the concept of karma and the concept of good deeds reaps benefits. The concept of voluntary services took its shape in India during the 18th century through the social and religious movements. The pre independence era saw and experienced various reforms fight against the systematic social injustices, which were so prevalent and deep rooted in our society. Such strong agitation against such social injustices gave rise to the formation of various organizations that took initiative in rooting out or fighting against such issues and giving voice to the disadvantaged section of the society such organizations were the Brahmo Samaj which was formed by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the year 1828, the theosophical society, the Ramakrishna mission and many more. the country has always believed in giving back and the social responsibility lies in every citizen towards the marginalized section of the society.

However, in order to understand the contemporary thinking of civil society we need to look back and reflect a little talking about the idea given by Aristotle he stressed on the idea of the collective identity of the state and society were the society is conceived of the work of nature .in the ancient form the civil society was a integral part of the government or state constituting the association of associations. On the other hand the modern classical era began to view the state and the civil society as two separate and independent entities. CSO's has been working mainly at the grass root level and ensuring the communities a better life and provide them the essentials required to lead a dignified life.



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The CSO's play a vital role in bringing a policy change it is often seen that the CSO'S and the state are two separate spheres however that's not true. They often permeate each other. The civil societies capacity to influence governance is issue based. the civil society continue to work towards the development of the country by addressing the issues which the government also keenly works.

Proactive Steps by The Inforecement Agencies

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and as such prevention of the crime of trafficking is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments by providing them advice and guidelines from time to time.

The police and community partnership is attainable and is attained now. The initiative taken by the police department towards community policing has reaped a lot of positive results in preventing human trafficking.

Community Policing: An Effective Tool to Prevent Human Trafficking and Prosecute the Traffickers

The active effort of the police to remove the thick skin image and making it more cooperative with the citizens has yield a lot of benefits. It has led to resolving a lot of issues, which were earlier, considered a major task for the police.

Due to the close interaction of the police with the local community, the police have been successful in building trust among the locals and that has helped in building a good relation and they get a lot of information pertaining to various activities that take place at local level.

Community policing has helped in

- Breaking a lot of barriers and a constant dialogue between the police and community has created an understanding of each others need.
- Developed a better police community interaction.
- Has helped in developing a people oriented approach to policing in the area.
- It has helped and encouraged the community in participating in policing activities.
- Finding mutually acceptable solutions in talking endemic problems in the areas through community outreach activities.

These outcomes helped the police in tracking a lot of issues and concerns which were troublesome in the community, a lot of internal issues among the community members were resoled due to the initiation of community level policing also a lot of valuable information was received that helped in tracking the link of the traffickers and prevent human trafficking. The police effectively formed a lot of liaison teams that worked closely with the patrolling team of the police a lot of community



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members were also an integral part of the patrol team this not only enhanced the work of the police but also gave positive outcomes Such as

Reaching The Unreached Approach by The Police: State Police Combats Human Trafficking Through Community Based Anti-Trafficking Programme

Community based anti-trafficking approach has helped a lot in combating human trafficking. The effort of the police making an effort and make a people friendly approach in which the focus is on women and encouraging them to be a part of the community meeting where in their issues and concerns are brought forward as well as the major aim of the community meeting was to bring about awareness among women related to their political, civil and legal rights.

The police officials by developing a friendly approach with the women of the community and along with the department of health, involvement of the NGO's who work closely with the women of the community, involvement of the community leaders at the local village level, speaking with them in local language so that they feel accepted and heard and that made them open up with the team and express their issues. The trust increased as the time bound method of resolving issues were kept in mind while addressing the issues and resolving the same along with that the women of the community approached the team without fear. the approachability was made easy and contact numbers were shared so that they could reach out easily without any hassle in times of emergency.

This effort made by the police resulted in a two fold increase in the registration of crime against women and children.

The impact of reach the unreached approach was outstanding. An innovative intervention by the police has helped the vulnerable section of the society have access to the justice system. The approach has increased the awareness among the village level community, safe migration practices were highlighted in the community meetings that resulted in the prevention of trafficking and the manipulative traffickers were identified they were tracked down and brought before the law.

Coolaborative Efforts by CSO And Police

Working Together in Partnership: coordination and cooperation as essential tools in combating trafficking Collaboration begins at the national level, but is equally important at the bilateral, regional and international levels. At the national level, the presence of institutional structures such as national referral mechanisms, national rapporteurs and national coordinators/coordinating structures has facilitated concerted action against trafficking.

Building Grass Root Level Relationship: the police has a recalcitrant image in the society and the close working with the community people has helped the police to rebuild their image and that has brought about positive change due to which they police also considers the grass root community as a major resource and they closely cooperate with the police as now they are aware of the community



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behaviour and their needs. Due to being close with the community they have regained the trust and respect of the community.

Approach of considering Every Entity as A Resource: after constantly working with various sections of the society the police has got an understanding that everyone in the society is a potential resource.

Positive Outputs

The NGO and the corporate took a collaborative effort to train and make the police more chiselled to combat the human trafficking as India as become a source, host country.

The I land informatics took an initiative to conduct a 2 day workshop for the police officials in order to make them better equipped to combat human trafficking.

The workshop conducted in west Bengals 12 districts was successful and brought about attitudinal change for taking effective action for prevention of crime, rescue and protection of victims, collection of evidence and prosecution of criminals. Along with that the officials understood the sensitivity of the issue and understood that such organized crime requires a collaborative effort to combat and fight.

The NGO's have been playing a very crucial and important role in giving strength to the programs run by the government. The role of the NGO's has been pertinent in combatting trafficking through a lot of means. They provide support system to the AHTU's formed and well as work in close cooperation they are the special members of the team and take a proactive effort rescue operation. Most of the NGO's work at the grass root level it plays a major role in creating awareness at the mass level even the PRI members are sensitized by them.

Pre Rescue Activities

Building Strong Networks

Relationships to be nurtured with the informers including sensitive brothel keepers, who could be resourceful, in giving information about specific minors or women or for children or women who become untraceable. The reason being once a child is lost, she is lost forever.

Matching of Information

The information collected from different sources to be collected and matched. Any uncertainty with respect to existence of any sexual exploitation of minors, in a specific brothel, is eliminated.

Planning

Once the information is received, proper planning is required to be done to undertake the rescue operation. (All actions should be strategized in advance.)



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Cooperation

If more than one NGO is involved, cooperation is the key to success of the recovery operation.

Security

Of the Rescued Girls (as well as the Rescue Team. Mode of transportation to be kept ready for the recovered survivors.

Rescue Activities

Cooperation of Sensitized Police Officers^{[L][SEP]}

Help of the local police to be taken only, if they are sensitized, as there are chances of leakage of ^{[L][SEP]}information. ^{[L][SEP]}Involvement of Women Police Officer^{[L][SEP]}Women police officer to be included in the rescue operation team from the police side. ^{[L][SEP]}

Recovery

Rescue of only minors, minor looking girls and women who are forced into prostitution. (No rescue of over-aged girl pursuant to a target driven approach. (Respecting the Human Rights / Democratic Rights of the recovered survivors. ^{[L][SEP]}Collections of Belongings ^{[L][SEP]}The recovered survivors are allowed to collect their belongings from the rescue spot.

Post Rescue Activities^{[L][SEP]}

After rescue, victims and traffickers to be kept separately and not to be taken together to the police station in the same vehicle. ^{[L][SEP]}Emergency kits to be distributed to the recovered victims. ^{[L][SEP]}

Keep the media away as the news can be exaggerated. If not there are chances of the identity of ^{[L][SEP]}the victim being revealed. ^{[L][SEP]}Immediate legal assistance – awareness about rights and entitlements of the recovered survivors. ^{[L][SEP]}Interview of the victim to be conducted only by a woman police officer. ^{[L][SEP]}Ensuring the victim be placed under safe custody. ^{[L][SEP]}

Way Forward

Human trafficking can only be contained if there are effective partnership between the public, private and civic sectors of the society, a coordinated effort is the need of the hour it is an organized crime without boundaries and in order to contain such a roaring crime it is essential for all the stake holders of the society to work with full cooperation and efficacy. The grass root level work is a must in the state like Jharkhand as major incidents take place in interior areas. The public awareness programmes should be scheduled by the cooperative efforts of AHTU's. Timely monitoring and continuous advocacy has to be ensured in order to track the crime as well as prevent and protect the vulnerable and exposed section of the society, which often becomes the victim of human trafficking. The safe form of migration from one place to another in search of work has to be ensured so that the

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migrants are prevented from falling into the trap of such traffickers who lure them in the name of getting work and good payment in metropolitan cities. The active and collaborative work of almost all the stakeholders of the society can bring about the considerable amount of positive and commendable change that would help to reduce down the no of such cases as well as provide them a decent form of life style.

Traffickers and the ultimate victims get away because of the inadequate response system and lack of evidence. In order to grant justice to the victims and to prevent such crimes to be in a repetitive mode its very important that the rescue operation is well planned and well executed so that good amount of valid evidence is collected so that there is no rescue for the offenders and they can be brought in front of the legal system and be punished.

Steps by the government and various other organizations should be taken to make restoratory homes and mental health cure centres for the surviving victims so that utmost care is given to them so that they can cope with such tormenting experiences.

Conclusion

The PPP mode is the best practice, which will not only help in tackling the issue of human trafficking but will also help the agencies and the stakeholders of the society to work effectively and efficiently. The government departments can and need to act together for the overall development and protection of the communities especially women and children .the inter sectoral convergence has helped in optimizing the utilization of the governments time and resources, promoting better governance practices and preventing duplication of work .The collaborative efforts of all the parties having a common objective makes it easier to achieve the objective and the internal differences are sidelined and that helps in community building and catering to the issues well such as combatting human trafficking through using all the tools effectively such as the lawyers are also brought in and the legal aspect and knowledge sharing bring about awareness not only go the community people but also the police and other stakeholders.

The government of India is also in its progressive mode to bring about a strong bill, which is under process once it becomes an act it will be a great blessing to the society and that will bring about great change.

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